

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 AID-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 /071 W

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R 121440Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4869

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0031

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC, LU, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA'S LUXEMBOURG

STOPOVER

1. SUMMARY. ON HIS WAY FROM BONN TO BRUSSELS JANUARY  
9, SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE MARIA DE AREILZA STOPPED  
OVER IN LUXEMBOURG FOR 2-HOUR CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER  
THORN. AREILZA REQUESTED RAPID REOPENING OF COMMERCIAL  
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE EC, WITH A VIEW TO  
ENLARGING THEM SO THAT NEW GOS COULD SHOW IMMEDIATE,  
CONCRETE PROGRESS IN RELATIONS WITH EUROPE. THORN WAS SYMPATHETIC  
AND PROMISED TO SUPPORT THE SPANISH REQUEST AT THE  
JANUARY 19 COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BRUSSELS.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. ON HIS LUXEMBOURG STOPOVER AREILZA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY

MESSRS. NUNO AGUIRRE DE CARCER, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN POLICY, RAYMUNDO BASSOLS, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, AMBASSADOR ALBERTO ULLASTRES, ACCREDITED TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND AMBASSADOR FERNANDO SEBASTIAN DE ERICE, ACCREDITED TO LUXEMBOURG. THE GROUP HAD JUST LEFT BONN WHERE THEY MET WITH PRESIDENT SCHEEL AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS. ON LEAVING LUXEMBOURG THE GROUP PROCEEDED TO BRUSSELS.

3. ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER THORN'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT PAUL HELMINGER, DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON SPANISH EC RELATIONS. AREILZA POINTED OUT THAT NEW SPANISH REGIME IS MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARDS DEMOCRACY. LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE PLANNED WITHIN A YEAR AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS WITHIN TWO YEARS. HE ASKED THORN WHETHER TIME WAS RIGHT TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON SPANISH EEC MEMBERSHIP OR AT LEAST ASSOCIATION WITH EEC. ACCORDING TO HELMINGER, THORN REPLIED THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE SPAIN IN EEC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO TALK ABOUT ASSOCIATION OR MEMBERSHIP FOR AT LEAST 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS. SOME EC MEMBER STATES SEE SUSTAINED MOVEMENT TOWARDS LIBERALIZATION OF SPANISH REGIME, RATHER THAN SIMPLY PROFESSIONS OF GOOD INTENTIONS AS ONLY BASIS FOR SERIOUS ASSOCIATION/MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS. THORN AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL MEMBER STATES WANTED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE THOSE FORCES IN SPAIN THAT ARE TRYING TO MOVE CLOSER TO EUROPE. HE SAID EC COULD PROBABLY EASILY AGREE NOW TO A RESUMPTION OF THE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BROKEN OFF IN OCTOBER OF 1975 WHEN THE BASQUE TERRORISTS WERE EXECUTED.

4. AREILZA REPLIED THAT, OF COURSE, SPAIN WANTED TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT THAT THE NEW REGIME COULD NOT SIMPLY ENDORSE A PACKAGE ALREADY 99 PERCENT NEGOTIATED AND AGREED UPON BY THE FRANCO REGIME. HE SAID THAT THE REOPENED NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NEED TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE AND COMPRISE NEW ELEMENTS OF BENEFIT TO SPAIN. THESE, OF COURSE, WOULD

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BE STRICTLY IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR. THORN REPORTEDLY WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THIS REQUEST AND SAID HE WOULD SUPPORT A MANDATE FROM THE EC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING JANUARY 19 FOR REOPENING NEW, ENLARGED NEGOTIATIONS.

5. COMMENT: HELMINGER SAID HE FORESEES SOME DIFFICULTY BECAUSE THE BUREAUCRACY IN BRUSSELS NEGOTIATED AN

AGREEMENT THAT WAS ALMOST READY FOR SIGNATURE LAST OCTOBER AND WOULD BE LOATH TO INTRODUCE NEW ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD CALL FOR A NEW INTERNAL EC BALANCE OF GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE MEMBER STATES. HE SAID HE ALSO FEARED OPPOSITION FROM SOME OF THE MORE MILITANTLY ANTI-FRANCO EC STATES (UNNAMED). HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT FRG, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG AND OTHERS ARE WILLING TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE THE NEW GOS LEADERSHIP AND THE CHANCES OF THE EC RESPONDING FAVORABLY TO AREILZA'S REQUEST APPEAR GOOD. PHILLIPS

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